

OUR ELSIE.

BY JULIE ADAMS POWELL.

Over the meadow and up the lane,
Who is it I see?
Falling in the grass, then up again,
Who can it be?

Wee, chubby hands—hair of gold,
'Tis our baby;
Tiny little five-year-old,
Our sweet Elsie.

Racing after yellow butterflies,
With flutt'ring curls;
Mischievous in her laughing eyes,
Happiest of girls.

In and out among the flowers,
Stepping daintily,
Hiding under leafy bowers,
To frighten me.

On she goes, hour after hour,
Gay wee Elsie;
Till the eyelids have to lower,
Asleep's our baby!

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT FROM
ISAIAH TO MALACHI.

LESSON XII.—SEPTEMBER 17.

DANIEL IN BABYLON.

Dan. 1. 8-20. Memorize verses 16, 17.
(Temperance Lesson.)

GOLDEN TEXT.

Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself.—Dan. 1. 8.

THE LESSON STORY.

Do you remember that the king of Babylon carried many princes and much treasure away from Jerusalem before Zedekiah became king. There were some noble youths among these princes, who held fast to the faith of their fathers and were ready to live or to die for it. The king of Babylon wanted to train them for his own service, so he had them brought to the palace and teachers given them, that they might study the language and learning of the Chaldeans. The king also sent them food and wine from his own table, that they might be strong and fair in body as well as in mind.

There were four princes of Judah—Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah—who were wiser than all, and Daniel was the one whose eyes, like those of Joseph the son of Jacob, were open to the visions of God, and who was faithful under great temptations. He did not want to eat the rich food and drink the

wine of the heathen king, and this he said to the prince who had charge of them; but the prince was afraid of the king, and dared not disobey him. Daniel then spoke to Melzar, the one who had charge of their food, and asked if he would not prove them for ten days with vegetable food and water and see if they were not better than the young men who ate of the king's food and drank his wine. So Melzar told the four youths that he would do this, and he proved them for ten days. He found them at the end of that time so fine and healthy to look upon, so fair and full of face, that he let them eat their simple food and drink water every day.

When they stood before the king, he asked them many hard questions, which they answered wisely, for they had lived temperately and had looked to the Lord God of Israel for wisdom.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

1. Who were captives in Babylon? Four princes of Judah.
2. What did the king want them to do? Learn to be wise men.
3. Whom did he set over them? Teachers.
4. Where did he want them to live? In his palace.
5. What did he send them? Food and wine from his own table.
6. Who did not want this? Daniel and his friends.
7. What did they want? Vegetable food and water.
8. What did Melzar let them do? Try it for ten days.
9. How did they look then? Fairer and fatter.
10. Did they ever take the king's food and drink? No.
11. In what other way did they grow? In wisdom.
12. What kind of wisdom had Daniel? Spiritual wisdom.

LESSON XIII.—SEPTEMBER 24.

REVIEW.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The Lord is thy keeper.—Psa. 121. 5.
Titles and Golden Texts should be thoroughly studied.

TITLES.

GOLDEN TEXTS.

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| S.'s I. | With us is the— |
| H.'s P. | God is our— |
| The S. S. | The Lord hath— |
| The G. I. | Seek ye the— |
| M.'s S. and R. | Righteousness— |
| J.'s G. R. | Remember— |
| J. and the B. of L. | I will not— |
| J. B. the W. of G. | Amend your— |
| J. in the D. | Blessed are— |
| The C. of J. | Be sure your— |
| The L.-G. S. | Whosoever will— |
| D. in B. | Daniel purposed— |

CHINESE WORSHIP.

"I thought the Chinese worshipped their ancestors," said Hugh, with emphasis, as little Kitty showed him the picture of a strange-looking Chinese idol. "And so they do," said mamma, "and a great many other things besides. They have 'gods many,' which they worship according to their necessities or fancies. There are so many, indeed, that it would be impossible to collect the names of them all. Besides the gods of the woods and the fields, of thunder and rain, with many others of like kind, there are local deities without number. Then they worship oddly-shaped stones, gnarled bits of wood, and any queer thing that comes to hand. All these, besides the spirits of their ancestors."

"Whew!" said Hugh; "I should think they'd have to keep at it all the time."

"Human nature is the same everywhere," said mamma. "If men have no motive of love to draw them to a superior being, they seek him only as they feel their need of help beyond themselves."

"But how do they worship the idols?" asked Kitty.

"They bring offerings of cakes, meat, fruits, or anything they chance to have. They set them before the god, and burn incense sticks before him. Then they get down on their hands and knees, and bow their heads to the floor, in the meantime telling the god what they want. Then they carry away the food and eat it."

"Then I think I read somewhere," said Hugh, "that every god has its birthday, and has to be specially worshipped then."

"Yes; and in new moons and when they are full. There are many other strange things to be learned about Chinese worship; but the most important thing to remember is gratitude that we know the only true God."

A WISH FOR EVERY DAY.

Monday I wish for eager feet
On errands of love to go;

Tuesday I wish for a gentle voice,
With tone both soft and low;

Wednesday I wish for willing hands,
Love's duties all to do;

Thursday I wish for open ears,
Wise words to listen to;

Friday I wish for a smiling face,
A brightener of home to be;

Saturday I wish for quickened eyes
God's beauty all to see;

Sunday I wish for a tranquil heart
That may to others joy impart.